

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF STANDARDS

George K. Burgess, Director

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MASTER SPECIFICATION FOR
CARPETS AND RUGS, WILTON

FEDERAL SPECIFICATIONS BOARD SPECIFICATION No. 503

This specification was officially promulgated by the Federal Specifications Board on July 11, 1927, for the use of the departments and independent establishments of the Government in the purchase of Wilton carpets and rugs.

[The latest date on which the technical requirements of this specification shall become mandatory for all departments and independent establishments of the Government is October 11, 1927. They may be put into effect, however, at any earlier date after promulgation.]

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I. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

There are no general specifications applicable to this specification.

II. GRADES

This specification covers three grades of fabric as follows: Grade A, worsted Wilton rugs; grade B, worsted Wilton carpets; and grade C, wool Wilton rugs and carpets.

III. MATERIAL AND WORKMANSHIP

Wilton fabric, grades A and B, shall be woven from best quality carpet worsteds with warp, filling, and stuffers of cotton; and grade C from woolen carpet yarn with warp and filling of cotton with jute stuffers. All weaving shall be evenly done in a neat and workmanlike manner.

IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

DEFINITION.—A genuine Wilton fabric must be woven on a Wilton loom always known as such; that is, a loom with a Jacquard in connection with perforated cards selecting and raising independently each individual colored thread over the cutting wire, for the purpose of forming the pattern, which pattern must always consist of two or more colors, yarn dyed in the skein and drawn from individual spools behind the looms. The threads not selected by the Jacquard to make the pattern will always be found running continuously throughout the center of the fabric. Under no circumstances can a fabric be a Wilton where the design has been printed in either the yarn or the woven fabric by any mechanism whatsoever. This definition was originated and agreed to by the Association of Wilton and Brussels Manufacturers of America in July, 1925.

V. DETAIL REQUIREMENTS

1. Worsted yarns shall be spun from fine, long-fibered blended wools, thoroughly cleansed of all animal fat and foreign substances, and combed until short fibers are removed and the long fibers are straightened. It shall then be drawn and spun until the resulting yarn is fine, supple, elastic, uniform in diameter and strength, and soft to the touch. Generally all worsted yarns shall be three-ply, the individual strand of which thread shall be two-ply.

2. Wool yarns shall be produced from thoroughly cleansed filling wools.

3. **DYEING.**—Pile material shall be evenly and thoroughly dyed with permanent sunfast dyes of the alizerin type or equal.

4. Patterns shall be domestic adaptations of the best oriental designs in low tones and rich colors. It is the intention to secure patterns from manufacturers' standard lines.

5. **DISSECTIONS.**—There are tabulated below the average requirements for the grades desired. These dissections are given as a guide and are not restrictive. It is intended to secure fabrics from manufacturers' standard constructions which most nearly conform thereto. Each bidder shall submit the actual dissection or analysis by weight of the various materials contained in the fabrics offered by him. These shall be expressed in avoirdupois ounces per carpet yard 27 inches wide and 36 inches long. These will be considered confidential,

and will only be used by members of awarding agencies. Submitted dissections shall specify the name of the material and its use in the construction, segregating weights for pile, warp, filling, and stuffers. The correctness of the submitted dissections will be verified from the samples, and the quality and quantity of materials and thoroughness of construction will receive consideration in connection with bid prices.

Grade	Pile	Frames	Shots	Pitch	Wires	Weight			
						Worsted or wool	Cotton	Jute stuffer	Total
A, rugs.....	Worsted....	5	3	256	13½	Ounces 31	Ounces 21	Ounces -----	Ounces 52
B, carpets.....	do.....	5	3	256	10½	31	19	-----	50
C, rugs and carpets.....	Wool.....	5	2	256	9	28	12	7	47

6. CARPET SAMPLES.—Bidders shall submit samples of each grade of carpet upon which they are bidding. They shall be 9 by 13½ inches and preferably not bound.

7. RUG SAMPLES.—When pattern rugs are called for, bidders shall submit a small-size rug, preferably 27 by 54 inches, in addition to small samples as noted in paragraph 6. Bidders shall guarantee that small samples are true samples of the small rugs which they accompany. Rugs will be returned to unsuccessful bidders. The rug submitted by the bidder to whom the contract is awarded will become Government property and will be retained as a quality sample.

VI. METHODS OF INSPECTION AND TESTS

1. INSPECTION AT MILL.—Mill inspection will not be made unless the contract or order so specifies. In connection with awards, the Government reserves the right to inspect bidder's stock and facilities to assure itself that he has in stock, or is in a position to supply, a reasonably large assortment of patterns and colors of carpets and rugs of the latest and most desirable patterns, made of first-class material and of high-grade workmanship, and that the illustrations and samples submitted with the offer truly represent the carpets and rugs, and that they conform to the specified requirements.

2. WEIGHT TESTS.—Samples will be carefully weighed to ascertain the total weight per carpet yard. Small squares will be accurately cut, dissected, and the constituents carefully weighed as a check against the dissection analyses submitted with bids.

3. FADING TESTS.—Samples will be exposed for 48 hours to an ultra-violet light as an accelerated light test.

VII. PACKING AND MARKING OF SHIPMENTS

Shall be as specified by the department, either in the specification as promulgated in departmental form or as included in the contract or purchase order.

VIII. NOTES

1. Awards will be based on evaluated prices determined from actual weighings and dissections of submitted samples and the bid prices.

2. **SAMPLE BOOKS.**—Purchasing officers should include in advertisements for bids an item covering cost of sample books, indicating the number of samples intended to be selected to form a set, and the probable number of sample books to be required.

3. **ILLUSTRATIONS.**—Purchasing officers should include in advertisements for bids an item covering the cost per sheet for colored illustrations, indicating the probable number of sets to be required.

4. **SAMPLES OF CARPETS TO BE FURNISHED BY THE CONTRACTOR.**—As soon as practicable after award, the contractor should submit a full line of samples, showing patterns and colors, from which selections will be made. After selections are made the contractor should make up the specified number of sets as follows: The samples should be 9 by 13½ inches, bound around the edges, punched and grommeted. Each should have stenciled on its back its reference number, or other designating symbol. Each set should be assembled in an extra-heavy loose-leaf binder, with wood base and extra-heavy cloth-covered board cover with four binding standards.

5. **ILLUSTRATIONS OF PATTERN RUGS TO BE FURNISHED BY THE CONTRACTOR.**—As soon as practicable after the award the contractor should furnish the specified number of sets of colored illustrations. These illustrations should in each case show at least a quarter of the rug, and care should be taken to see that colors generally are truthfully duplicated. Each should bear, either on its face or back, the manufacturer's name, brand, pattern, and color numbers or other designating symbols, the contract number, and a list of the sizes in which the rug can be furnished.

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